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November 26, 1955

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Diplomatic Communication Service Activity

I have noted with considerable concern, and return herewith, the copy of a letter from Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, signing as Chairman of the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference, addressed to Mr. J. Walter Keagley as Chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security. I have taken the liberty of making a copy of this letter for our background file on the subject and of forwarding a copy to the Under Secretary in order that he may be aware of this position during his discussions with J. Edgar Hoover.

We consider it most important that in future ICIS discussion on this subject, you reflect the following two important points:

1. It appears that the IIC evaluates the proposal for limited authorization of diplomatic radio activity on a reciprocal basis from the internal security and investigative aspects, which are recognized to be their valid areas of consideration. However it must be assumed that they have not weighed the proposal in the light of the over all national interest and the tremendous advantages which would accrue to the Department in its normal

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It is our considered judgment that the advantages over-ride the intangible and somewhat questionable impairment to internal security which is foreseen by the IIC.

2. Also, while military members of the IIC seem to have come to a negative conclusion regarding the proposed action based upon the framework of their consideration, the Office of the Secretary of Defense has given written support to the proposal.

It is my understanding that the ad hoc committee of OSD, studying this over all proposal at the direction of ICIS, expects to give specific consideration to the IIC letter in the near future. I will advise you of the outcome of these considerations.

Attachment:

As stated.

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